



4 December, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

We, at American Falconry Conservancy (AFC) are concerned about the leadership of the government agency most responsible for wildlife conservation, our U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The FWS recently published a final rule on Part 21 (MBTA) determining that hybrid falcons produced in captivity using exotics species, are native raptor species. This determination and an expected similar final rule announcement on Part 23, will do further damage to conservation efforts encouraged by CITES on the world's endangered and threatened species and harm small business breeders producing these species in captivity.

As American citizens, AFC petitioned Acting Secretary, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Rachel Jacobson and Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Dan Ashe under your predecessor, Secretary Salazar in May of 2012, asking that the peregrine falcon be treated in a similar manner as other protected but delisted raptor species. In this document (Encl 1) we provided solid scientific information with supporting data for Service officials to review yet Secretary Jacobson and Director Ashe did not respond. A follow up letter (Encl 2) was sent by our attorney 14 months later yet still, neither official responded.

We presented a letter to Director Ashe in March, 2013 on the subject of raptor electrocutions (Encl 3) caused by power companies and the lack of standards and direction provided to FWS Region personnel by management. Director Ashe chose not to respond.

We at AFC sent another letter to the Service Director in March 2013 asking for the take of golden eagles by falconers to be permitted and increased from the arbitrary number of six (Encl 4). As indicated in our letter, the Bald and Golden Eagle Act allows the take of golden eagles for falconry purposes in depredation areas, yet FWS has seen it fit to prevent this from occurring for two consecutive years. In the meantime, we citizens have watched FWS offer permits to kill golden eagles and now even California condors, activities forbidden by the MBTA without special permits. To add insult, the Director and other high level FWS officials have stated by issuing such "special" permits this will in some manner benefit the wild eagle population. We are fortunate to have some of this country's foremost eagle experts as members of AFC yet they are unable to explain these "benefits" Service officials refer to. Again, Director Ashe failed to respond.

We ask that you discuss with Director Ashe his responsibility to the citizens of this country. AFC is confident that with your help these outstanding matters can be resolved promptly and in full compliance with DOI directives.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bill Meeker

President, American Falconry Conservancy

cc: Congressman Hastings (WA), Chairman, Congressional Committee on Natural Resources